

PENDING CLAIMS

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- C 1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for storing and forwarding messages, the apparatus comprising:
- a first network interface for interfacing with a network;
  - a second network interface for interfacing with an Internet network;
  - means for receiving an incoming message and delivery information from said first network interface, said incoming message having a message content format of a first type;
  - a converter for converting said incoming message having a message content format of a first type to a message having a message content format of a second type in response to said incoming message and said delivery information, said converter using said delivery information for selecting said message content format of a second type for said message;
  - means for presenting said message having said message content format of a second type to at least one recipient specified in said delivery information, said message content format of a second type including a format where said message is stored in a location in memory, said location in memory pointed to by location information, said means for presenting having a means for creating a web page for presenting said incoming message;
  - connection notification means for providing a recipient connection signal to the apparatus ~~when~~ in response to a browser ~~connects~~ connecting to said Internet network, said browser associated with a recipient of said incoming message; and

message notification means for sending message waiting notification to said recipient via said browser if said recipient connection signal is received from said connection notification means and if at least one message has been received for delivery to said recipient.

2-99. (Cancelled)

CA 100. (Currently Amended) A communication system having a virtual mailbox feature, comprising:

a first messaging apparatus having a first network interface and a second network interface, said first network interface coupled to an Internet network and for transceiving messages through ~~an~~ said Internet network, a said second network interface coupled to and for transceiving messages through a first telephone network, a universal mailbox associated with a first subscriber; and

a second messaging apparatus having a third network interface, a fourth network interface, a virtual mailbox, and a forwarding program, said third network interface coupled to said Internet network and for transceiving messages through said Internet network, a said fourth network interface coupled to a second telephone network and for transceiving messages through ~~a~~ said second telephone network, a said virtual mailbox associated with said first subscriber and for storing a message addressed to said first subscriber and received through said second telephone network, ~~and a~~ said forwarding program for transmitting said message to said first messaging apparatus via said Internet network.

101. (Previously Added) The system of claim 100, wherein said first telephone network supports a first geographical area defined by a first telephone prefix code and said second telephone network supports a second geographical area defined by a second telephone prefix code.
102. (Previously Added) The system of claim 100, wherein said first messaging apparatus includes a subscriber interface for recording a message which will be used by said second messaging apparatus as a personal greeting for said virtual mailbox.
103. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing a virtual mailbox feature in a messaging system having at least one other instance of said apparatus including a remote apparatus, said remote apparatus supporting multimedia communications between subscribers in a first geographical area supported by a first telephone network and having a first mailbox for storing messages addressed to a subscriber of said messaging system, said first mailbox accessible for message retrieval by said subscriber, said apparatus comprising:
- a first network interface coupled to and for transceiving messages through an Internet network;
  - a second network interface coupled to and for transceiving messages through a second telephone network;
  - a second mailbox associated for storing a message addressed to the subscriber; and
  - a forwarding program for transmitting said message to the remote apparatus via said Internet network, wherein the remote apparatus stores said message in the first mailbox.

104. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 103, wherein said second telephone network supports a second geographical area defined according to a first telephone prefix code.

105. (Currently Amended) A communication system having a roaming mailbox feature, comprising:

a first messaging apparatus having a first network interface and a second network interface,

C/ said first network interface coupled to an Internet network and for transceiving messages through ~~an~~ said Internet network, a said second network interface coupled to and for transceiving messages through a first telephone network, said first telephone network serving a first geographical area, a universal mailbox associated with a first subscriber and for storing a message addressed to said subscriber, and a forwarding program for transmitting said message addressed to said subscriber to a second messaging apparatus via said Internet network;

wherein said second messaging apparatus includes a third network interface, a fourth network interface, a roaming mailbox, and a forwarding program, said third network interface coupled to said Internet network and for transceiving messages through said Internet network, a said fourth network interface coupled to a second telephone network and for transceiving messages through a said second telephone network, a said roaming mailbox associated with said first subscriber and for storing said message addressed to said subscriber and received through said Internet network from said first messaging apparatus; and

wherein said roaming mailbox is accessible by said subscriber via said second telephone network, said second telephone network serving a second geographical area.

106. (Previously Added) The system of claim 105, wherein said second messaging apparatus further includes a subscriber interface for recording a message which will be used as a personal greeting for said roaming mailbox.

C\ 107. (Previously Added) The system of claim 105, wherein said second messaging apparatus further includes a subscriber interface for changing a password previously associated with said subscriber to access said roaming mailbox.

108. (Previously Added) The system of claim 105, wherein said second messaging apparatus further includes a subscriber interface for recording outbound messages.

109. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 105, wherein said first messaging apparatus further includes a subscriber interface for activating said roaming mailbox for use by said subscriber through said first messaging apparatus.

110. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 105, wherein said second messaging apparatus further includes a subscriber interface for activating said roaming mailbox.

111. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing a roaming mailbox feature in a messaging system having at least one other instance of said apparatus including a remote apparatus, said remote apparatus supporting multimedia communications between subscribers in a first geographical area supported by a first telephone network and having a

temporary mailbox for storing messages addressed to a subscriber of said messaging system,  
said temporary mailbox accessible to said subscriber, said apparatus comprising:

a first network interface coupled to and for transceiving messages through an Internet  
network;

a second network interface coupled to and for transceiving messages through a second  
telephone network;

C/ a universal mailbox for storing a message that is addressed to the subscriber and received via  
said second telephone network; and

a forwarding program for transmitting said message to the remote apparatus via said  
Internet network, wherein the remote apparatus stores said message in the temporary  
mailbox.

112. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 111, wherein said second telephone network  
supports a second geographical area.

113. (Currently Amended) A method of delivering a message to a recipient serviced by a  
messaging apparatus defined within a multimedia messaging communications system,  
comprising:

receiving at a local messaging apparatus a destination telephone number from a subscriber  
of the communications system;

receiving at said local messaging apparatus a message intended for delivery to said  
destination telephone number;

determining whether said destination telephone number includes a prefix code which corresponds to a local telephone network, said determining based at least in part on a routing program and a routing table, said routing program and said routing table maintained by said local messaging apparatus;

routing said message to a said local telephone network if said destination telephone number includes a telephone prefix code which corresponds to said local telephone network;

routing said message to a remote messaging apparatus which is coupled to a remote telephone network, if said destination telephone number includes a prefix code which corresponds to said remote telephone network; and

delivering said message by using said remote messaging apparatus to establish a local call to a telephone interface which is defined within said remote telephone network.

114. (Currently Amended) A messaging apparatus for use in a multimedia communications system having a plurality of said messaging apparatuses which are coupled together via an Internet network, said messaging apparatus comprising:

a converter for converting an incoming message having a first format to a processed message having a delivery format, said converter converting said incoming message to said delivery format according to a format specified by delivery information provided by a user;

an Internet interface coupled to said converter and to the Internet network, said Internet interface including a means for transporting said processed message from said converter to at least one browser coupled to said Internet network, if said delivery format so specifies;

a telephone network interface coupled to said converter and for transporting said processed message from said converter to at least one telephone interface associated with a telephone network, if said delivery format so specifies;

a mailbox for storing messages intended for delivery to a subscriber associated with the messaging apparatus;

C1 a browser program having a connection notification program that sends a connection signal to the messaging apparatus ~~when~~ in response to said browser program ~~establishes~~ establishing a connection to said Internet network, wherein said connection signal includes an IP address associated with said subscriber; and

a message notification means for sending a message waiting notification to said browser program if said connection signal is received by said message notification means and if at least one message is stored in said mailbox.

115. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method to deliver a message to a recipient serviced by a messaging apparatus defined within a multimedia messaging communications system, the method comprising:

receiving at a local messaging apparatus a destination telephone number from a subscriber of the communications system;

receiving at said local messaging apparatus a message intended for delivery to said destination telephone number;

determining whether said destination telephone number includes a prefix code which corresponds to a local telephone network, said determining based at least in part on a



routing program and a routing table, said routing program and said routing table maintained by said local messaging apparatus;

routing said message to a said local telephone network if said destination telephone number includes a telephone prefix code which corresponds to said local telephone network;

routing said message to a remote messaging apparatus which is coupled to a remote telephone network, if said destination telephone number includes a prefix code which corresponds to said remote telephone network; and

delivering said message by using said remote messaging apparatus to establish a local call to a telephone interface which is defined within said remote telephone network.

116. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for delivering a message to a recipient serviced by a messaging apparatus defined within a multimedia messaging communications system, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving at a local messaging apparatus a destination telephone number from a subscriber of the communications system;

means for receiving at said local messaging apparatus a message intended for delivery to said destination telephone number;

means for determining whether said destination telephone number includes a prefix code which corresponds to a local telephone network, said determining based at least in part on a routing program and a routing table, said routing program and said routing table maintained by said local messaging apparatus;

means for routing said message to a said local telephone network if said destination telephone number includes a telephone prefix code which corresponds to said local telephone network;

means for routing said message to a remote messaging apparatus which is coupled to a remote telephone network, if said destination telephone number includes a prefix code which corresponds to said remote telephone network; and

means for delivering said message by using said remote messaging apparatus to establish a local call to a telephone interface which is defined within said remote telephone network.

117. (Currently Amended) A method of delivering a message to a recipient serviced by a messaging apparatus defined within a multimedia messaging communications system, comprising:
- step for receiving at a local messaging apparatus a destination telephone number from a subscriber of the communications system;
  - step for receiving at said local messaging apparatus a message intended for delivery to said destination telephone number;
  - step for determining whether said destination telephone number includes a prefix code which corresponds to a local telephone network, said determining based at least in part on a routing program and a routing table, said routing program and said routing table maintained by said local messaging apparatus;

step for routing said message to a said local telephone network if said destination telephone number includes a telephone prefix code which corresponds to said local telephone network;

step for routing said message to a remote messaging apparatus which is coupled to a remote telephone network, if said destination telephone number includes a prefix code which corresponds to said remote telephone network; and

C/ step for delivering said message by using said remote messaging apparatus to establish a local call to a telephone interface which is defined within said remote telephone network.

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